

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, October 1, 2013 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:20 pm on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members S. Carroll (arrived 8:00) , F. Esposito, M. Kelly, M. Murray, D. Stillinger, D. Travisano, Township Committee Liaison Kathy Abbott, and Township Resident **George Grimmons** (left 8:10)

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2013 and January 2014 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2013 AND JANUARY 2014

Every first Tuesday February through December 2013 and the second Tuesday in January 2014.

February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July NO MEETING, August 6 (cancelled), September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 in 2013 and January 14, 2014.

APPROVE GREEN TEAM AND CTEC MINUTES

Mike Kelly motioned to approve the September 3, 2013 CTEC and Green Team minutes and M. Murray 2nd, with all in favor.

WELCOME DON TRAVISANO AS CTEC'S NEWEST MEMBER

Don will be CTEC's liaison to the Planning Board. Don has served on the Commission a few years back.

GREEN TEAM MEETING

Considering water conservation action for sustainable jersey points. League of Municipalities will present Chatham Township with a Sustainable Jersey Award at their yearly luncheon. Walmart approached Steve Carroll regarding participating in creating a video that shows success schools. Video to include the mayor, students & some CTEC members. Green Fair – CTEC booth was well attended. S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

RAIN GARDEN GRANT FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AWARDED

CTEC was awarded the civic category First Prize in the Show Us Your H2O contest. The TNC panel of judges was impressed with the amount of detail covered, the attention given to questions posed in the contest requirements, and that CTEC had a great place selected in need of a rain garden (Southern Boulevard School or municipal building). The Nature Conservancy will work with CTEC in the fall on implementation.

RECYCLING ECO CHALLENGE – Is a two week team participation nationwide event, in which you measure & track your recycling and solid waste tonnage. Previewed dvd, which will be on the township website.

PLAN TO ATTEND ANJEC ANNUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 19 TO SUPPORT MIKE AND KATHY

Mike and Kathy will discuss the Sapling Sale at a workshop on successful EC projects. The Sapling Sale won the Daily Record's What a Great Idea! award in its third annual Grassroots Awards.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

PENDING. Bhee properties, Block 61, Lot 10, 697 Fairmount Ave. Application to Planning Board to subdivide an acre property into two 1/2-acre lots in the R-3 (1/2-acre) zone. Fifty-foot drop from Sunset Drive to Fairmount Ave. Proposed usable lot area is only half of that required on each lot. Variances requested for very large deviations from required slope disturbances. Soil is loose and depth to bedrock is small so much potential for erosion and stormwater runoff.

PENDING. 23 Loantaka Lane South, Block 139, lot 17. Application by Home Help New Jersey, LLC to NJDEP for renewal of wetland disturbance permit. CTEC sent letters to NJDEP and others noting that the proposed required wetland compensation area is not on property owned by the applicant but is on land owned by the Morris County Park Commission. Morris County Planning Board replied with a letter stating that they were aware of the situation and were working with the applicant.

PENDING. 509 Shunpike Rd. Block 128, lot 14. Application to Planning Board to subdivide the 1-acre property into 2 1/2-acre lots. R-3 (1/2 acre residential) zone. Property is near Long Hill Chapel. Wetlands begin at rear property line. When the application comes up before the Planning Board CTEC will send memo to Planning Board suggesting asking applicant to obtain an LOI.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance. Suggest CTEC investigate what would be needed to incorporate it into the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. Master Plan is on Township website. Bhee properties. Green Checklist.

Township Committee report.

Discussion about requiring subdivision and site plans and related documents to be submitted in pdf format. If that happens CTEC should be on the list to receive all pdf plans and documents. Currently the township requires applicants to submit 25 paper copies of every sheet and document, which amounts to a large stack of paper and is costly for the applicant. K. Abbott, Township Committee liaison.

Open Space Committee report. S. Krishnan and M. Schaaf, Open Space Committee liaisons.

Communications Committee report.

Archive page on EC website is an excellent resource, serves as backup for important files. Township website has been updated. CTEC website will be updated soon by Tom Salvas. Who will review? Suggest Frank and Megan. F. Esposito, Chair.

Recycling Committee report.

- Chatham Township Recycling Eco Challenge. K. Abbott.

- Frequency and cost of recycle pickups is being reviewed. Publicize single stream. M. Schaaf, F. Esposito, Chair.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report.

CTEC receives several e-mails every day. F. Esposito responds and archives the messages. Follow up on Sapling Sale. M. Kelly, M. Schaaf, and F. Esposito, Chair.

Legal Issues Committee.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- Proposal by GH @ Long Hill, LLC to construct 208 residential townhouse units and 20 residential condominium flats at Block 11301, Lots 1, 2 & 3, 1100 Valley Rd. in Long Hill (Kurz property across from Long Hill Town Hall). Suggest CTEC take a look at this.
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (www.mcsd.org/) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, is one of only a few Morris County towns that assumes the responsibility for soil and erosion instead of leaving it to the county.
- Greeve conservation easement needs to be accepted and recorded. Planning Board final subdivision approval was granted 3-21-96 conditioned on a conservation easement be granted to the Township.
- Safe Routes to School - update. Report submitted to Township Committee, application will be made for grants and Gold status with the SRTS organization. "This (Chatham school district) was the only school district in which every school participated in SRTS programs throughout the school year." K. Abbott.
- Complete Streets - update. K. Abbott.
- PSE&G's power line upgrade is complete. Let's watch to see how they revegetate.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- April 2013. Letters concerning application to NJDEP for extension of Transition Area Waiver and General Permit by Home Help New Jersey, LLC sent to NJDEP, Morris County Planning Board, Morris County Park Commission.
- March 2013. Letter to three new owners of properties with conservation easements mentioning the existence of a conservation easement on part of their property.
- January 2013. Letter to NJDEP urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way, including the North Central Reliability Project, and revegetation with native species.

EVENTS

- October 4, 2013, Friday, 6:30-9 p.m. CommunityEarth, co-hosting with Food & Water Watch, is offering a public event that will feature Ray Kemble, an internationally renowned whistleblower and anti-fracking activist. Unity Charter School (<http://www.unitycharterschool.org>), 1 Evergreen Place, Morris Township. Free.
- October 19, 2013, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ANJEC 40th Annual Environmental Congress, Middlesex County College, Edison. \$60 before Oct. 4 for EC members.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers

ADJOURN 9:55 PM

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary